

STATE OF COLORADO

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John W. Hickenlooper
Governor

D 2017-004

EXECUTIVE ORDER

Extending the Availability of Existing Funds and Providing Additional Funding for Wildfires in Rio Blanco County

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Governor of the State of Colorado and, in particular, pursuant to relevant portions of the Colorado Disaster Emergency Act, C.R.S. § 24-33.5-701, *et seq.*, I, Governor John W. Hickenlooper, Governor of the State of Colorado, hereby issue this Executive Order extending the availability of funds and providing additional funds to pay for costs associated with the disaster emergency due to the July 2012 wildfires in Rio Blanco County.

I. Background and Purpose

The Governor is responsible for meeting the dangers to the state and people presented by disasters. The Colorado Disaster Emergency Act defines a disaster as “the occurrence or imminent threat of widespread or severe damage, injury, or loss of life or property resulting from any natural cause or cause of human origin, including but not limited to fire” C.R.S. § 24-33.5-703(3).

In July 2012, two wildfires, the Powell Fire and the Little Duck Fire (together, the “Powell Complex”) started in Rio Blanco County on lands managed by the Bureau of Land Management. The fire grew rapidly due to extremely dry vegetation, low relative humidity, high temperatures, and windy conditions. On July 21, 2012, the Colorado Division of Fire Prevention and Control received a request from the Rio Blanco County Sheriff to assume charge of the Complex in accord with the Emergency Fire Fund Agreement. The State accepted the Complex as an Emergency Fire Fund-designated fire.

This Office declared a disaster emergency due to the Powell Complex in Executive Order D 2012-034. In that Executive Order, I transferred \$210,000 to the Disaster Emergency Fund for fire suppression, response, and recovery efforts in connection with the Powell Complex. Pursuant to Executive Order D 2012-034, the funds were available until July 2013.

As recovery efforts progressed, the Colorado Department of Public Safety determined that it required additional time and resources to address sufficiently the impacts of the Powell Complex. Accordingly, the Department of Public Safety has requested an additional \$106,078 to assist with the recovery efforts and requested that funds be available through December 31, 2016. Finding good cause, I hereby make the following declarations and directives relating to the funding of the Powell Complex recovery efforts.

II. Declaration and Directives

- A. I hereby encumber an additional \$106,078 in the Disaster Emergency Fund to pay for fire suppression, response, and recovery efforts related to the Powell Complex. I also extend the funding in the Disaster Emergency Fund provided in paragraph II(C) of Executive Order D 2012-034 until December 31, 2016 to facilitate final payments of the expenses associated with the Powell Complex. The Division of Fire Prevention and Control and the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management are authorized and directed to allocate the funding to the appropriate resources as may be appropriate and permitted by law.

III. Duration

This Executive Order shall expire thirty days from its date of signature unless extended further by Executive Order.



GIVEN under my hand and the
Executive Seal of the State of
Colorado this seventeenth day of
February 2017.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John W. Hickenlooper", written over a horizontal line.

John W. Hickenlooper
Governor